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57-1842

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director
(Support)

SUBJECT: Partitions

REFERENCE: Memo dated 28 May 1957 from
Chief of Operations, DD/P to
DD/S re Partitions

1. The above mentioned reference proposes that we experiment with different types of partitioning during the course of forthcoming moves in Buildings L to I.
2. We believe that there is little or nothing to be gained by experimentation with full height partitions. Partitioning in the new building will generally be either of masonry or steel studs and plaster-board. The cost of movable steel panel type partitions prohibits their general use in the new building and it would not be reasonable to believe that any movable steel panel partitioning purchased at this time for use in temporary buildings could be moved to the new building. The ceiling heights and other physical conditions would be so entirely different that savings could not be expected. Furthermore, this type of partitioning is now being used in our space at 1717 H Street, and during the next two or three years we should be able to expect some experience with moves that will indicate its advantage or disadvantage.
3. There are quite a number of different designs or types of part height partitioning or screens available on the market today. Movable screens could be considered as Agency furniture or equipment and could be moved to the new building without extensive alteration, thus effecting a saving in the building construction cost. In addition, we believe that it would be most desirable to have our personnel familiar with part height partitions by trying these screens in actual working conditions.


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However, it should be realized that because of the quantities involved in the new building, the screens (or part height partitions) will probably not be stock items but will be manufactured to our specifications. In any event, it is doubtful that screens purchased now would entirely match those purchased later for the new building. This is not objectionable if sufficient quantities are purchased so that there is enough of one kind to furnish a complete area of the new building. If screens purchased now had to be used in the same areas with screens purchased later of different design or materials, we believe the effect would be objectionable.

4. To summarize, we believe that there is nothing to be gained by experimentation with full height partitions. Screens, or part height partitions vary widely and some valuable knowledge might well result from using some of them under actual working conditions.

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Chief, Building Planning Staff